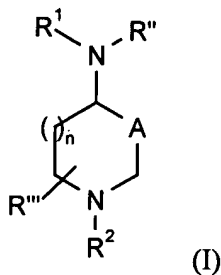


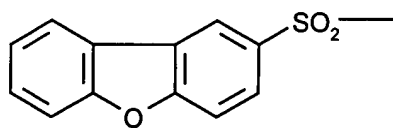
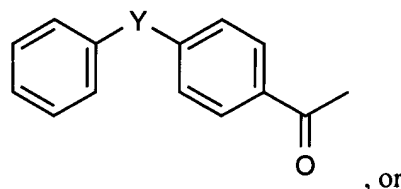
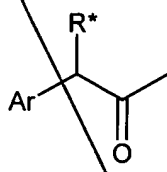
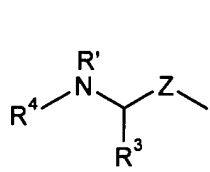
In the claims:

1. (Amended) A compound according to formula (I):

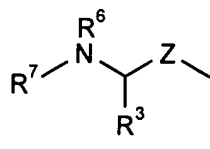


wherein:

A is C(O) or CH(OH);
R¹ is



R² is H, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₀₋₆alkyl, Ar-C₀₋₆alkyl, Het-C₀₋₆alkyl, R⁵C(O)-, R⁵C(S)-, R⁵SO₂-, R⁵OC(O)-, R⁵R'NC(O)-, R⁵R'NC(S)-, adamantyl-C(O)-, or



R'' is H, C₁₋₆alkyl, Ar-C₀₋₆alkyl, or Het-C₀₋₆alkyl;

R''' is H, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₀₋₆alkyl, Ar-C₀₋₆alkyl, or Het-C₀₋₆alkyl;

each R³ independently is H, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl, Het, Ar or C₁₋₆alkyl optionally substituted by OR', SR', NR'₂, R'NC(O)OR⁵, CO₂R', CO₂NR'₂, N(C=NH)NH₂, Het or Ar;

R⁴ is H, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₀₋₆alkyl, Ar-C₀₋₆alkyl, Het-C₀₋₆alkyl, R⁵C(O)-, R⁵C(S)-, R⁵SO₂-, R⁵OC(O)-, R⁵R'NC(O)-, R⁵R'NC(S)-, R'HNCH(R')C(O)-, or R⁵OC(O)NR'CH(R')C(O)-;